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## DR. EDMUND MONTGOMERY

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The following note by Mr. B. F. Underwood, of the Quincy, Ill., *Journal*, refers to a writer whose work is familiar to many of our readers.—

At Hempstead, Texas, died a few days ago Dr. Edmund Montgomery. Probably there was some mention of his death in the local papers of the community, in which he was a well-known citizen; but the writer of this article has seen no reference to the event in any *Journal*. Yet Dr. Montgomery was the author of original scientific and philosophical works,—some of them written in English, others in German,—which are in all the great libraries of the world. In his fields of thought he had an international reputation. He wrote on "Theories of Knowledge," "Our Ideas of Time and Space," "The Formation of So-Called Cells," "Vital Organization," "The Unity of the Organic Individual," "The Dual Aspect of Our Nature," "Protoplasm of the Muscles," "Transcendentalism," "Vital Motility," etc.

Dr. Montgomery was for years a contributor to *Mind*, the *Popular Science Monthly*, and the *Boston Index*, besides other journals in this country.

Dr. Montgomery was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1835, of Scotch parents. He was taken to Paris in care of a French nurse so early that the first language he learned to speak was French. At nine he was taken to Frankfort, Germany, where, educated in German, he began early the study of the natural sciences and philosophy.

He was acquainted with Feuerbach; and at Heidelberg he attended the lectures of Moleschott and Kuno Fischer. He used to see Schopenhauer, with his poodle, daily, and was much interested in the philosopher of pessimism. At Bonn he attended Helmholtz's famous lectures on the "Physiology of the Senses." He studied at German universities—Heidelberg, Berlin, Bonn, Würzburg (where he received the M. D. degree), Prague and Vienna. He wrote in German a reply to Kant's "Critique of Pure Reason," at Munich in 1871. From 1860 to 1863 he was lecturer on Physiology in St. Thomas, Hospital, London, where the effects of a dissecting wound put an end to his work in that institution, where he used to meet and converse with Darwin.

For six years he practised medicine at Madeira, Mentone, and Rome; and in 1869, with a competence, he retired to give his whole attention to science.

In 1871 he went to Texas and bought the Liendo plantation, paying for it \$40,000. In a letter to the writer he wrote: "The first seven years here in the South were devoted to laborious biological research; no writing at all."

Dr. Montgomery's wife was Elizabeth Ney, a grandniece of Marshal Ney of France. She acquired a reputation as an artist, and designed and executed some of the finest pieces of sculpture in the state capital at Austin.

Late in the eighties Dr. Montgomery, by request, sent a paper to be read before the "Concord School of Philosophy," whose programme that season included lectures by Dr. W. R. Alger and Dr. W. T. Harris, whose terminology caused no little merriment among those unacquainted with scientific and philosophic thought. In the *Boston Record* from some bright reporter appeared the following, indicating the impression Dr. Montgomery's paper had produced among those not so much interested in the thought as they were confounded by the language:

"A Texan has floored the Concord crowd,  
Sing high, and sing ho! for the great Southwest;  
He sent 'em a paper to read aloud,  
And 't was done up in style by one of their best.

"The Texan, he loaded his biggest gun  
With all the wise words he ever had seen,  
And he fired at long range with death-grim fun,  
And slew all the sages with his machine.

"He muddled the muddlers with brain-cracking lore,  
He went in so deep that his followers were drowned,  
But he swam out himself to the telluric shore,  
And crowed in his glee o'er the earthlings around.

ENVOY

"Oh Plato, dear Plato, come back from the past!  
And we 'll forgive all that you ever did to vex us,  
If you 'll only arrange for a colony vast,  
And whisk these philosophers all off to Texas."

In scientific and philosophical circles the paper attracted wide attention, and is included among his published writings. Dr. Montgomery was in personal appearance as handsome and impressive and in manners as courtly and courteous as he was intellectually brilliant.